



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,919	08/27/2003	Michael Chen	AVIP0033USA	1918

27765	7590	06/25/2007
NORTH AMERICA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CORPORATION		
P.O. BOX 506		
MERRIFIELD, VA 22116		

EXAMINER	
MURPHY, DILLON J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
06/25/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

winstonhsu.uspto@gmail.com
Patent.admin.uspto.Rcv@naipo.com
mis.ap.uspto@naipo.com.tw

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/604,919

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Examiner

Dillon J. Murphy

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/378,701.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/12/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miura et al. (US 6,025,924) in view of Nakai et al. (US 5,909,602).

Regarding claim 1, Miura teaches an electronic apparatus comprising:

A housing (Miura, fig 11, MFP #51 comprises a housing);

A scanning module installed in the housing for scanning a document and generating corresponding image data (Miura, fig 12, disclosing a block diagram of components of MFP #51, col 11, ln 13-19. Scanner unit #52 scans a document and generates image data, col 11, ln 32-36);

A control unit installed in the housing for controlling operations of the electronic apparatus (Miura, col 11, ln 43-45 and fig 12, CPU #58 (incorrectly labeled as element #8 in the text) controls operations of the MFP);

A first printer installed in the housing and directly electrically connected to the control unit (Miura, fig 12, printer unit #53 installed in MFP and connected to the control unit via the bus line #61);

A second output port electrically connected to the control unit for connecting a second printer (Miura, fig 11 and fig 12, wherein second connector I/F #75, connected to bus line #61, connects second peripheral #72 to the MFP. See col 11, ln 50-55, wherein second peripheral #72 may be a printer); and

A printer selecting device electrically connected to the control unit for selecting one of the two printers as an output device (Miura, fig 11 and col 11, ln 57-64, wherein switching device #73 is provided in MFP #51 for selecting between printers); wherein when the scanning module finishes scanning a document, the control unit transmits the image data of the document to the printer selected by the printer selecting device so as to print the document according to the image data (Miura, col 13, ln 5-39, determining function, path state switching function, and a concurrent printing function are provided as switching states for transmitting image data of the document scanned to the printer selected by the selecting device as to print the document).

Although Miura teaches selecting functions including the determining function, path state switching function, and a concurrent printing function, Miura does not disclose expressly an apparatus comprising a control unit that transmits the image data of the document to the printer selected by the printer selecting device as to print the document according to the image data. However, Nakai teaches an apparatus comprising a control unit that transmits the image data of the document to the printer selected by the printer selecting device as to print the document according to the image data (Nakai, col 6, ln 37-54 and fig 2, wherein digital copying machine #30 comprises scanner section #31 for reading documents and creating image data. See col 22, ln 46-

51, for reading data using document scanner of digital copier, and col 23, ln 31- 40 and fig 24, wherein an output device is selected at the apparatus and the image data is transmitted to the selected printer).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the apparatus of Nakai comprising a printer selecting device and control unit for transmitting the image data to the printer selected by the selecting device with the apparatus of Miura comprising a housing comprising a scanning module, a control unit, a first printer, a second output port and a printer selecting device. The motivation for doing so would have to select the desired printer to output the image data, and was suggested by Miura in col 15, ln 44-48 by suggesting the switching operation may be modified. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Nakai with Miura to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claim 2, which depends from claim 1, the combination of Miura and Nakai teaches an apparatus further comprising a memory installed in the housing for storing the image data generated by the scanning module (Miura, fig 12, memory #53 and image memory #57, wherein memory stores image data, col 11, ln 25-28), wherein after the scanning module completes scanning of the document, the control unit transmits the image data from the memory to the first or second printer (Miura, col 13, ln 5-39, transmitting the document from the memory to the first or second printer. Also see Nakai, fig 24 for selecting a printer and col 23, ln 31- 40 for transmitting image data to the selected printer).

Regarding claim 3, which depends from claim 1, the combination of Miura and Nakai teaches an apparatus wherein one of the two printers is a black-and-white laser printer and the other is a color inkjet printer (Miura, col 11, ln 36-43, laser printer, and col 11, ln 50-51, color inkjet printer).

Regarding claim 4, which depends from claim 1, the combination of Miura and Nakai teaches an apparatus further comprising a connecting port installed on the housing and electrically connected to the control unit for connecting a computer, wherein after the scanning module finishes scanning the document, the control unit transmits the image data of the document to the computer through the connecting port and the computer may transmit the image data through the control unit to the first or second printer for printing (Miura, fig 11 and fig 12, wherein I/F #74 connects MFP #51 to computer #1. See col 13, ln 53-55, wherein generated image data may be sent to the computer, and col 13, ln 5-18, wherein the computer may select a printer to print from. Also see Nakai, fig 11, wherein I/F #93a connects digital copier #93 with host computer #96. Generally, an image may be scanned in Nakai, the image data may be sent to a computer for processing, and the image data may be sent back to a selected copier for outputting).

Regarding claim 5, which depends from claim 1, the combination of Miura and Nakai teaches an apparatus wherein the printer selecting device is a manually actuated switch (Nakai, fig 24, wherein the control panel in LCD #1 with printer selections reads on a manually operable switch).

Regarding claim 6, which depends from claim 1, the combination of Miura and Nakai teaches an apparatus wherein the printer selecting device is an electronic switch adapted to receiving a switch instruction from the control unit and selecting the first or second printer based on the switch instruction (Miura, col 12, ln 45-49, wherein controller #76 controls electronic switch #14).

Regarding claim 7, which depends from claim 1, the combination of Miura and Nakai teaches an apparatus wherein the printer selecting device is an electronic switch having a manual actuator adapted to receiving a switch instruction from the control unit and selecting the first or second printer based on the switch instruction and a position of the manual actuator (Nakai, fig 24, wherein LCD #1 reads on a manually actuated switch to select a printer, and interface #93a serving as a transferring device for distributing image data according to the switch instruction, col 31, ln 44-50. See fig 4 and col 10, ln 50-65, control board unit #77 functions as control unit for LCD #1).

Claims 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miura et al. (US 6,025,924) in view of Nakai et al. (US 5,909,602) and further in view of Barry et al. (US 6,657,741).

Regarding claim 8, Miura teaches an electronic apparatus comprising:

A housing (Miura, fig 11, MFP #51 comprises a housing);

A scanning module installed in the housing for scanning a document and generating corresponding image data (Miura, fig 12, disclosing a block diagram of

Art Unit: 2625

components of MFP #51, col 11, ln 13-19. Scanner unit #52 scans a document and generates image data, col 11, ln 32-36);

A control unit installed in the housing for controlling operations of the electronic apparatus (Miura, col 11, ln 43-45 and fig 12, CPU #58 (incorrectly labeled as element #8 in the text) controls operations of the MFP);

A first printer installed in the housing and directly electrically connected to the control unit (Miura, fig 12, printer unit #53 installed in MFP and connected to the control unit via the bus line #61);

A second printer directly electrically connected to the control unit (Miura, fig 11 and fig 12, wherein second connector I/F #75, connected to bus line #61, connects second peripheral #72 to the MFP. See col 11, ln 50-55, wherein second peripheral #72 may be a printer);

A printer selecting device electrically connected to the control unit for selecting one of the two printers as an output device (Miura, fig 11 and col 11, ln 57-64, wherein switching device #73 is provided in MFP #51 for selecting between printers);

Wherein when the scanning module finishes scanning a document, the control unit transmits the image data of the document to the printer selected by the printer selecting device so as to print the document according to the image data (Miura, col 13, ln 5-39, determining function, path state switching function, and a concurrent printing function are provided as switching states for transmitting image data of the document scanned to the printer selected by the selecting device as to print the document).

Although Miura teaches selecting functions including the determining function, path state switching function, and a concurrent printing function, Miura does not disclose expressly an apparatus comprising a control unit that transmits the image data of the document to the printer selected by the printer selecting device as to print the document according to the image data. However, Nakai teaches an apparatus comprising a control unit that transmits the image data of the document to the printer selected by the printer selecting device as to print the document according to the image data (Nakai, col 6, ln 37-54 and fig 2, wherein digital copying machine #30 comprises scanner section #31 for reading documents and creating image data. See col 22, ln 46-51, for reading data using document scanner of digital copier, and col 23, ln 31-40 and fig 24, wherein an output device is selected at the apparatus and the image data is transmitted to the selected printer).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the apparatus of Nakai comprising a printer selecting device and control unit for transmitting the image data to the printer selected by the selecting device with the apparatus of Miura comprising a housing comprising a scanning module, a control unit, a first printer, a second output port and a printer selecting device. The motivation for doing so would have to select the desired printer to output the image data, and was suggested by Miura in col 15, ln 44-48 by suggesting the switching operation may be modified.

The combination of Miura and Nakai teaches an electronic apparatus comprising a housing comprising a scanning module, a control unit, a first printer, and a printer

Art Unit: 2625

selecting device, wherein in a second printer is electrically connected to the control unit in the housing, wherein when the scanning module finishes scanning a document the control unit transmits the image data to a selected printer. The combination of Miura and Nakai does not disclose expressly an electronic apparatus wherein the second printer is installed in the same housing as the first printer. However, Barry teaches an electronic printer wherein the housing comprises multiple print engines (Barry, fig 4, printer comprises print engines #136, #138 and #140, teaching multiple print engines in a single housing, col 3, ln 65- col 4, ln 3. Engine manager #28 in fig 2 provides switching function to distribute image data to a selected print engine, col 2, ln 66- col 3, ln 3).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art combine the apparatus of Barry teaching providing multiple print engines in a single housing with the apparatus of Miura and Nakai teaching a housing comprising a scanning module, a control unit, a first printer, and a printer selecting device, wherein in a second printer is electrically connected to the control unit in the housing, wherein when the scanning module finishes scanning a document the control unit transmits the image data to a selected printer. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide an apparatus that can select the proper print engine to increase throughput with printing in color (Barry, col 1, ln 46-64). Additionally, the suggestion for doing so was given by Miura in col 2, ln 21-30 and col 14, ln 67- col 15, ln 5, which suggests that increases in cable lengths can cause noise in the system, while reducing cable length and making components integral improve the antinoise characteristics of

Art Unit: 2625

the apparatus. Finally, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the second printer into the housing with the first printer, scanner, control unit, and printer selecting device, since it has been held that forming in one piece an article which has formerly been formed in two pieces and put together involves only routine skill in the art. *Howard v. Detroit Stove Works*, 150 U.S. 164 (1893). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Barry with the combination of Miura and Nakai to obtain the invention as specified in claim 8.

Regarding claim 9, which depends from claim 8, the combination of Miura, Nakai and Barry teaches an electronic apparatus further comprising a memory installed in the housing for storing the image data generated by the scanning module (Miura, fig 12, memory #53 and image memory #57, wherein memory stores image data, col 11, ln 25-28), wherein after the scanning module completes scanning of the document, the control unit transmits the image data from the memory to the first or second printer (Miura, col 13, ln 5-39, transmitting the document from the memory to the first or second printer. Also see Nakai, fig 24 for selecting a printer and col 23, ln 31- 40 for transmitting image data to the selected printer).

Regarding claim 10, which depends from claim 8, the combination of Miura, Nakai and Barry teaches an electronic apparatus wherein one of the two printers is a black-and-white laser printer and the other is a color inkjet printer (Miura, col 11, ln 36-43, laser printer, and col 11, ln 50-51, color inkjet printer).

Regarding claim 11, which depends from claim 8, the combination of Miura, Nakai and Barry teaches an electronic apparatus further comprising a connecting port

installed on the housing and electrically connected to the control unit for connecting a computer, wherein after the scanning module finishes scanning the document, the control unit transmits the image data of the document to the computer through the connecting port and the computer may transmit the image data through the control unit to the first or second printer for printing (Miura, fig 11 and fig 12, wherein I/F #74 connects MFP #51 to computer #1. See col 13, ln 53-55, wherein generated image data may be sent to the computer, and col 13, ln 5-18, wherein the computer may select a printer to print from. Also see Nakai, fig 11, wherein I/F #93a connects digital copier #93 with host computer #96. Generally, an image may be scanned in Nakai, the image data may be sent to a computer for processing, and the image data may be sent back to a selected copier for outputting).

Regarding claim 12, which depends from claim 8, the combination of Miura, Nakai and Barry teaches an electronic apparatus wherein the printer selecting device is a manually actuated switch (Nakai, fig 24, wherein the control panel in LCD #1 with printer selections reads on a manually operable switch).

Regarding claim 13, which depends from claim 8, the combination of Miura, Nakai and Barry teaches an electronic apparatus wherein the printer selecting device is an electronic switch adapted to receiving a switch instruction from the control unit and selecting the first or second printer based on the switch instruction (Miura, col 12, ln 45-49, wherein controller #76 controls electronic switch #14).

Regarding claim 14, which depends from claim 8, the combination of Miura, Nakai and Barry teaches an electronic apparatus wherein the printer selecting device is

Art Unit: 2625

an electronic switch having a manual actuator adapted to receiving a switch instruction from the control unit and selecting the first or second printer based on the switch instruction and a position of the manual actuator (Nakai, fig 24, wherein LCD #1 reads on a manually actuated switch to select a printer, and interface #93a serving as a transferring device for distributing image data according to the switch instruction, col 31, ln 44-50. See fig 4 and col 10, ln 50-65, control board unit #77 functions as control unit for LCD #1).

Conclusion

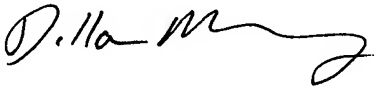
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Ohara reference (US 5,822,508) is cited for teaching a scanner with a first output port connected to a host computer and a second output port connected to a printer with a switch controlling the transmission of image data to an output device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dillon J. Murphy whose telephone number is (571) 272-5945. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8-5.

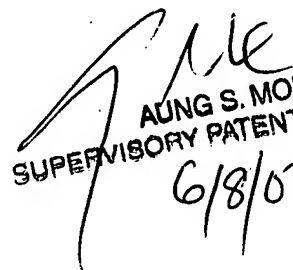
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571) 272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



DJM
June 6, 2007



AUNG S. MOE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
6/8/07